

<<中国京剧>>

图书基本信息

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前言

Foreign visitors to Beijing usually first visit the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven representative sites of historical interest in the city. In the evening, a tourist guide will take foreign visitors to the Chang an Grand Theater on the Avenue of Enduring Peace. In the foyer are counters selling handicraft articles, Peking Opera masks and Peking Opera-related books, picture albums and audio-videoproducts. Inside the theater, the stage is of a Western style.

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内容概要

Seeing a Peking Opera performance for the first time, a foreigner would wonder: why are faces of actors painted red, white, black, yellow or green ?

Are they masks ?

But masks are separate from the face. Facial make-ups in Peking Opera are different from masks. Intrigued, many foreign tourists would go backstage to see actors and actresses remove stage makeup and costume. Next time, they would go there before a performance starts to see how performers do their makeup. Luciano Pavarotti, the great tenor of international fame, once had a Peking Opera actor paint on his face the makeup of Xiang Yu, a valiant ancient warrior portrayed in numerous Peking Opera plays.

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作者简介

徐城北，Xu Chengbei Researcher in Chinese Art Academy, Member of Chinese Writer's Association. The Peking opera play Wu Zetian that he wrote for the well-known contemporary opera actress Li Shiji won the 1st Wen Hua Award. Profound research in the field of Peking opera Culture and Beijing city culture. He has published more than 60 works including: Peking Opera and Chinese Culture, Old Beijing Trilogy, Mei Lanfang Trilogy, Old Well-known Brands.

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章节摘录

插图：Tents（lian ying zai），forexample, to show Liu Bei making his escape in a conflagration, a stage checker standing on the side of the stage would light pieces of paper and throw the burning paper onto the actors, who thereupon do escaping or extinguishing acts——feats worthy of acrobats. Traditional stage setting is part of Peking Opera's conventions. Many foreign audiences are very curious about Peking Opera's highly stylized performances. In Peking Opera, two pieces of cloth represent a sedan chair; a push and a pull by an actor means opening and closing a window. People watching Peking Opera for the first time may find it difficult to understand. Also, Peking operas are closely connected with the history, customs, culture and social conditions of China. To enjoy Peking Opera, audiences need to understand China, its history and culture. Today, a big silk curtain hangs before a Peking Opera stage. A show begins when the curtain rises. This curtain does not come down until the whole show comes to an end. Between acts, a second curtain made of satin rises and closes. This “double-curtain”.

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